

The Work of the People

The Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

The readings for this week are substantially longer than in the past few weeks but the message is one of great importance. Two of the readings speak of prayer in general, and intercessory prayer in particular. We are called to trust in the love of God as we turn to God in our need.

In the Reading from the Book of Genesis we hear more about the encounter between Abraham and his visitors. God's determination to punish Sodom and Gomorrah for their sinfulness has Abraham pleading with God not to sweep away the innocent with the guilty. Securing his covenant relationship with God, the crux of Abraham's prayer is summarized in a rhetorical question ask of God: "Should not the Judge of all the world act with justice?" Since doing justice is the essence of covenant relationship, the answer is an obvious yes. Through prayer, Abraham is able to come to know and understand God's way of doing things, and in asking God for justice, he is able to attune his will to God's will.

In the Letter to the Colossians Paul tells us that in Baptism we are buried with Christ and through God's power are raised with Christ. God raises us up with Christ even while we are slaves to sin and legally bonded to evil powers. In Christ, God brings us to life, forgiving all our transgressions and eliminating any legal bonds against us from evil powers, by nailing all to the cross.

Luke's Jesus is a person of prayer whose personal relationship to God sustains his life and ministry. His disciples, very much aware of this, ask Jesus to teach them how to pray. Jesus responds with what we now call the Our Father or the Lord's Prayer. We are taught to call upon God as we would a loving parent, bless, and praise God for life's many blessings, and ask God for those things that we need in life to be faithful partners in a covenant love relationship.

The reflection for this Sunday is from *Essence of Prayer* by Sr. Ruth Burrows who is a Carmelite nun at Quidenham Monastery in Norfolk, England.

We are being led, not by nature, but by the Spirit, for we are indeed God's children, and the Spirit inspires our own spirit to cry out in confidence: "Father, my dear Father" (c.f. Rom. 8:14-16). It is the Spirit who continually upholds our natural weakness with divine strength, who is always praying deep within us even when our hearts

seem mute, uttering our own most authentic desires, desires that we hardly know we have. These are Jesus' desires, formed and uttered in us as our very own by the Holy Spirit, the mutual Love-Exchange of Father and Son. Such prayer is infallibly heard (c.f. Rom. 8:26).

I am sure we are not meant to peer into the Spirit's face, so to speak—nor can we do so any more than we can turn around and peer into our own. Jesus' is the face that we gaze on without ceasing and it is this face that the Spirit unveils to us. "He will bear witness to me" (Jn 15:26) and "He will lead you into all the truth" (Jn 16:12). The Holy Spirit, who proceeds from the Father and yet is sent to us by Jesus him-self, is nothing less than the love between the Father and the Son, their "communion". Our prayer can seem to us such a poor thing, so unsuccessful! We do not see the reality. Our prayer is one with that communion of love between Jesus and his Father which *is* the Holy Spirit.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 2 Cor. 4:7-15/Mt. 20:20-28

Tuesday: Jer. 14:17-22/Mt. 13:36-43

Wednesday: Jer. 15:10, 16-21/Mt. 13:44-46

Thursday: Jer. 18:1-6/Mt. 13:47-53

Friday: Jer. 26:1-9/Jn. 11:19-27 or Lk. 10:38-42

Saturday: Jer. 26:11-16, 24/Mt. 14:1-12

Sunday: Eccl. 1:2: 2:21-23/Col. 3:1-5, 9-11/Lk. 12:13-21

NEEDED

Is the Lord calling you to work with and teach our children? We are in need of a Third Grade Teacher. Please pray about it and if you feel the Lord speaking to you, please contact Barb Milligan, Facilitator of Religious Education, at 814 763-2410. You may also see her at Church and talk to her then. We are starting classes in September, so please give prayerful consideration of this.

PRAISE & WORSHIP HOLY HOUR

August 1 at 6:30 pm at St. Agatha's in Meadville. We will have a small social afterward for anyone (and especially young adults!) who would like to come and share some snacks and get to know each other. Questions? Contact Amy Mosbacher 814 336-1112, amy.mosbacher@catholic-meadville.org.

WORSHIP

Monday, July 25
 8:00 am + Louise Rembielak (Joan Rembielak)
 Tuesday, July 26
 8:00 am + NO MASS
 Wednesday, July 27
 8:00 am + NO MASS
 Thursday, July 28
 8:00 am + Wanda Pilarczyk (PNA Lodge 1540)
 Friday, July 29
 8:00 am + Josephine Haluch (James & Karen Mott)
 Saturday, July 30
 4:30 pm + NO MASS
 Sunday, July 31
 8:00 am + AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
 Melinda "Mindy" Schryver
 (Jim & Fran Peters)
 9:30 am + AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
 Living & Deceased Parishioners

PARISH EVENTS CALENDAR

Monday, July 25
 After Mass - St. Anthony Novena
 Saturday, July 30
 NO MASS (because of C.S. Fireman's Parade)
 Sunday, July 31
 At ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
 Before Mass - Confession
 AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
 After Mass - Confession

ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
ALTAR SERVERS
 Sunday, July 31 - 9:30 am
 Michael & Sophia Mott

*"Lord,
 thank you for your healing love."*

ST. BERNADETTE MISSION STEWARDSHIP	
Offertory	\$910.00
Maintenance	10.00
National Needs	35.00
Candles	3.00
TOTAL	\$958.00

GRIEF SHARE
 Grief Share is an amazing 13-week resource and group for anyone dealing with losing a loved one, whether a recent loss or not. Grief Share will be taking place in the CS First Church of God on Thursday evenings from 6pm - 8pm starting August 11th. Please register on griefshare.org.

PARENTING POINTERS
 The 4th Sunday of July (July 24) is Parent's Day. Don't let it be just a Hallmark holiday. Take a moment this weekend to remember why you so wanted a child. Cherish each of your children in thought and words today.

CATHOLIC HOME MISSIONS APPEAL
 Thank you for your generous support of last week's Catholic Home Missions Appeal. If you missed the appeal, it's not too late to give!

FRENCHTOWN DINNER/FESTIVAL
 The 126th annual Frenchtown ham/chicken dinner will be held July 31 at St. Hippolyte Church, located on Rt. 27 just seven miles east of Meadville. Dinner will be served from 12:30 - 4:30 pm (or until sold out). Menu includes half a barbecued chicken or a generous portion of ham, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, coleslaw, applesauce, rolls and butter, beverage and pie. Cost is \$14 for adults, \$13 for senior citizens, \$8 for children 6-12 and free to those 5 and younger. An outdoor eating area and take-out meals will be available. Proceeds benefit St. Hippolyte Parish and Our Lady of Lourdes Church.

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE
 Today's gospel guarantees if we "ask" we will "receive", perhaps not what we wanted but what our Heavenly Father knows is best for us. All the love we have for our children, God has for us and more. As our children trust us, we must trust "Our Father."

"Lord, be with every family, and help them embrace their calling!"

ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA STEWARDSHIP	
Offertory	\$885.00
Maintenance	267.00
National Needs	222.00
Candles	46.00
CSA	135.00
TOTALS	\$1,555.00
Catholic Services Appeal	
Pledged: \$31,783	Paid: \$26,081

CHURCH NAME: ST. ANTONY OF PADUA

CHURCH NO.:

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:
